

team (3-1) is hoping to up their record Wednesday night when it hosts Bridgeport at 7:00 p.m. in Boyden.

Head coach Alfie Mitchell said he is looking for a big win in this dual meet. Although Bridgeport does not pose the same level of competition as Towson State or Pittsburgh, Mitchell said the win would help boost morale and give his younger gymnasts more confidence in collegiate competition.

"The team needs a strong, solid performance," Mitchell said. He said the team needs to focus on their performance and not on the other team. Mitchell went on to say that he wants this team to qualify itself for post season competition. The sooner he sees the full potential of his athletes, the better. After senior Kristen Turmail's knee

is expected to be fully recovered, he said.

Junior Tammy Marshall, who leads the all-around for Massachusetts, is a seasoned veteran. Mitchell said he has confidence in her consistency.

"Her performances are most pleasing to watch," he said. Mitchell said Marshall is a step above the rest of the competition. He said that Marshall enjoys competition and her goal of the season is to meet the qualifications of the National Championships in Alabama. Mitchell said he also expects an upgraded performance from Kim Grady. He said she has increased her difficulty on the floor exercise. Mitchell said if she 'hits it now,' she will be on the right track for the rest of the season.

Tickets for Saturday, January 17, at the Cage will be distributed to students at the Cage between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Remaining student tickets will be distributed Friday at the Cage, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

One ticket will be given to each student with a valid student ID.

To guarantee a general admission seat in the student section, students with tickets must be at the Cage Saturday by 6:30 p.m.

Cage doors will open Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tipoff is 7 p.m.

## War puts athletics in its place

Sports, especially those of the professional variety, have always been blown out of proportion in American society.

That is, until something comes along to put games and diversions back in their place. *Something like war.* The night of January 16, I was upstairs in my room at home, writing my brother a letter. It concerned our beloved Buffalo Bills and their chances of winning Super Bowl XXV. At 6:45 p.m. my lit-

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tle brother came upstairs. "Greg, you have to come down here and see this." I peeked in the den and looked at the TV. We were at war with Iraq, live on national television. Oh, my God.

So much for the Buffalo Bills. Indeed, so much for watching Connecticut vs. Syracuse, or North Carolina vs. N.C. State, both scheduled games that night. How could I think about college basketball or football or even championship monster truck racing when my peers were putting their lives on the line half a world away? For that matter, how could anyone think about sports when a war was on? For the moment, America's obsession with games had subsided, but only because something much more deadly, something *real*, had taken their place.

For now, at least, the war has been at the forefront of our consciousness, and as usual, sports imitates society. Every team in virtually every level of sport,

from the pros to the high schools, has had flag patches sewn on their uniforms. The National Anthem has taken on new significance at sporting events, as anyone who attended the UMass-Boston University men's basketball game at the Cage can attest to. But what happens when people start getting used to the war? We forget about the real world and jump back into fantasy mode, living vicariously through the exploits of Bo Jackson, Mike Greenwell, Ray Bourque and the like.

There is nothing wrong with sports by themselves. Sports mirror some of the best qualities people can have — dedication, effort, dealing equally well with winning and losing and persistence. Were none of this true, I wouldn't be writing for sports. I'd be spending my afternoons studying (now there's a novel thought) or watching cartoons.

However, while sports have their place, perhaps we ought to keep them in their place. I can't help but feel a bit useless writing about the Bruins while young women and men are risking death in some worthless desert.

Indeed, compared to questions of life and death, what do questions like "Who will the Patriots draft?" or statistics like batting average leaders among switch-hitters batting left-handed on artificial turf during night games in July mean?

I do care, because I enjoy what I do. But my priorities are a little straighter these days.

Greg Sukiennik is a Collegian staff member

## With heart, Tate dives in

By SAM SILVERSTEIN  
Collegian Staff

It's John Tate's job to grab rebounds, dive after loose balls and throw his 6-foot-8, 240-pound body around on defense.

It's also John Tate's job to grab freshmen by the scruff of their neck when they get out of line, pick up the loose balls after practice, and throw in his two cents worth when the Universi-

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Collegian photo by Carr

Senior forward John Tate